1:Layard E-5 (1914-1915) 1942
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term "true circumcision." It will be seen from the description, however, that it is very different from the operation of circumcision as practised by the Jews and so introduced into Europe, and for this reason it is necessary to find for it a distinctive term. Owing to its close connexion with the simpler operation of incision, I therefore propose to coin a new term and refer to this operation in future as "circum-incision."

The main district in which this is carried out is that of the Big Nambas inhabiting the North Malekulan plateau.[1] A similar operation has been described by Tattevin as being performed by the Pornowol in South Raga, among whom, as among the Big Nambas, "the piece of skin that has been removed, as well as the stick and the bamboo knife used during the operation, are thrown into the water."[2]

Penis-wrapper concealing glans and penis only.

Throughout all those parts of the New Hebrides where either incision or circum-incision is performed there is found also a characteristic male dress, namely, the plaited penis-wrapper so distinctive of Malekula, Ambrim and South Raga in the Northern New Hebrides, and the island of Tanna in the south, and entirely absent from the remaining islands, where no such operation takes place. This remarkable garment—which, but for a string or bark-board belt, is the sole article of male clothing—consists of pandanus leaves stripped and plaited by the women so as to form a band which in the Small Islands may be some sixteen inches long by two or three inches wide, dyed red and furnished with tassels at either end. This is wound tightly round the base of the penis, and round and round again, the free end being then tucked under the string belt worn round the body immediately above the hips, the penis being thus held upwards in line with the belly. No effort whatever is made to clothe either the testicles or the root of the penis. The sole purpose of this method of dress is thus seen to be the concealment of one portion of the body only, namely, the mutilated foreskin and the glans penis which would otherwise be exposed.

Such scrupulous care is taken to conceal the exposed glans that not only will a man turn aside when micturating but he will even wear his penis-wrapper while bathing, removing it for his ablutions only when it is under water.

Penis-wrapper not due to fear of sorcery.

Among a people who have few other signs of sexual shame it is clearly important to discover if possible what motives should lead to this apparently excessively prudish behaviour. As part of his attempt to analyse Melanesian culture on lines of simple culture-contact, Rivers advanced

[1] Deacon, 4, p. 263.

[2] Tattevin, 1, 1926, p. 402, and Deacon, *loc. cit.*